

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application. The claims have been amended to remove the multiple dependencies and to place the application into better form prior to examination.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact James M. Slattery (Reg. 28,380) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By Joe M. Mumay <sup>Reg No</sup> 32,384  
For James M. Slattery, #28,380

JMS/djm  
0104-0308P

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000